AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

   defining a finite state machine that has a structure that includes nodes connected by links, wherein the nodes and the links are labeled;

   adding a label from a node to respective labels of each link connected to the node, wherein adding a label from a node to a label for a link comprises inserting a separator between the label from the node and the label for the link to form a modified label for the link;

   removing a label from a node that was added to a label for a link;

   changing the structure of the finite state machine; and

   inserting a label on a node.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein adding a label from a node to a label of a link comprises appending the label from the node to the end of the label of the link if the link leads into the node.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein adding a label from a node to a label of a link comprises appending the label from the node to the beginning of the label of the link if the link leads out of the node.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein changing the structure of the finite state machine comprises removing a node from the finite state machine.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein inserting a label on a node comprises removing a portion of a label on a link connected to the node and inserting the removed portion of the label of the link as the label for the node.

25.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the portion removed from the label on the link is an ending portion of the label on the link if the link is an incoming link to the node.

26.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the portion removed from the label on the link is a beginning portion of the label on the link if the link is an outgoing link from the node.

27.   (Canceled)